

BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Suspension)	
)	
of the Educator Certificate of)	ORDER OF SUSPENSION
)	(BREACH OF CONTRACT)
Sarah P. George)	
)	
Certificate 219960)	

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on August 10, 2005. On June 14, 2005, the Department of Education (Department) sent Sarah P. George a notice of her right to a due process hearing regarding the possible suspension of her South Carolina educator certificate by regular and certified mail. The postal service was unable to obtain a signature for receipt of the certified mail. As a result, on July 22, 2005, the Department resent the notice letter by electronic mail. Ms. George received the electronic mail, as evidenced by her electronic mail reply on July 22, 2005, in which she stated that she did not wish to request a hearing. After considering the information presented, the State Board voted to suspend Ms. George's certificate for one year.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. George holds a valid certificate and held a first year, induction contract for the 2004-05 school year with the Greenville County School District, and was assigned as a Spanish teacher to Mauldin High School. On April 25, 2005, Ms. George notified her Principal that her last day of employment would be April 28, 2005. On May 4, 2005, the District notified Ms. George that her resignation was not in compliance with District policy. On May 25, 2005, the District Board of Trustees voted to request suspension of Ms. George's certificate as a result of her breach of contract.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

The State Board may suspend the certificate of any person for unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. §§ 59-25-150 and 160 (2004). Breach of contract is deemed to be unprofessional conduct. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (2004); 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (1992). The State Board finds that the information presented supports its determination that just cause exists to suspend Ms. George's certificate 219960 for a period of one year, from August 10, 2005, through August 9, 2006. Should Ms. George wish to have her certificate reinstated at the end of the suspension period, she may make a written request for reinstatement to the Office of Teacher Certification.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: /S/ Paul M. Forrester

Paul M. Forrester, Chair

Columbia, South Carolina

August 10, 2005